

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 8, on page 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A1  
This application is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/272,097, filed on March 18, 1999, which is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/046,203, filed on March 23, 1998, now Patent No. 5,945,526, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 08/726,462, filed on October 4, 1996, now Patent No. 5,800,996, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 08/672,196, filed on June 27, 2996, now U.S. Patent No. 5,847,162 which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 08/642,330, filed on May 3, 1996, now Patent No. 5,863,727, each of which it is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

PLEASE REPLACE  
A2  
Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 20, on page 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In another embodiment, the energy transfer fluorescent dyes have donor and acceptor dyes with the general structure where  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  taken separately are either hydroxyl, oxygen, iminium or amine, the iminium and amine preferably being a tertiary iminium or amine and  $R_{11}$ - $R_{16}$  are any substituents which are compatible with the energy transfer dyes of the present invention.

PLEASE REPLACE  
A3  
Please replace all of page 52 with the following rewritten paragraphs:

In compound 3A-A, one of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  is ethyl, the other being hydrogen,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  taken separately are hydrogen,  $R_6$  is methyl,  $R_5$  and  $R_7$  -  $R_{10}$  taken separately are hydrogen,  $X_1$  is carboxylate, and one of  $X_3$  and  $X_4$  is a linking group, the other being hydrogen.

In compound 3A-B, one of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  is ethyl, the other being hydrogen,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  taken separately are methyl,  $R_5$  is methyl,  $R_6$ - $R_{10}$  taken separately are hydrogen,  $X_1$  is carboxylate, and, one of  $X_3$  and  $X_4$  is a linking group, the other being hydrogen.

In compound 3A-C,  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  taken separately are methyl,  $R_3$  and  $R_9$  taken together form a six membered ring,  $R_4$  and  $R_8$  taken together form a six membered ring,  $R_5$ ,  $R_6$ ,  $R_7$ , and  $R_{10}$  taken separately are hydrogen,  $X_1$  is carboxylate, and, one of  $X_3$  and  $X_4$  is a linking group, the other being hydrogen.

A300 In compound 3B-D,  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  taken separately are hydrogen,  $R_3$  and  $R_9$  taken together form a six membered ring,  $R_4$  and  $R_8$  taken together form a six membered ring,  $R_5$ ,  $R_6$ ,  $R_7$ , and  $R_{10}$  taken separately are hydrogen,  $X_1$  is carboxylate, and one of  $X_3$  and  $X_4$  is a linking group, the other being hydrogen.

In compound 3B-E, one of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  is ethyl, the other being hydrogen,  $R_3$  and  $R_9$  taken together form a six membered ring,  $R_4$  and  $R_8$  taken together form a six membered ring,  $R_5$  is methyl,  $R_6$ ,  $R_7$  and  $R_{10}$  taken separately are hydrogen,  $X_1$  is carboxylate, and, one of  $X_3$  and  $X_4$  is a linking group, the other being hydrogen.

In compound 3B-F,  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  taken separately are hydrogen,  $R_3$  and  $R_4$  taken separately are methyl,  $R_5$ - $R_{10}$  taken separately are hydrogen,  $X_1$  is carboxylate, and, one of  $X_3$  and  $X_4$  is linking group, the other being hydrogen.

✓ Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 5, on page 53 with the following rewritten paragraph:

A4 Figure 4A shows a generalized synthesis wherein the substituent  $X_1$  can be other than carboxylate. In the figure,  $X'$  indicates moieties which are precursors to  $X_1$ . In the method illustrated in Figure 4A, two equivalents of a 3-aminophenol derivative 4A-A/4A-B, such as 3-dimethylaminophenol, is reacted with one equivalent of a dichlorobenzene derivative 4A-C, e.g., 4-carboxy-3,6-dichloro-2-sulfobenzoic acid cyclic anhydride, i.e., where the  $X_1'$  moieties of 4c taken together are,

✓ Please replace the paragraphs beginning at line 14, on page 53 with the following rewritten paragraphs:

A5 The reactants are then heated for 12 h in a strong acid, e.g., polyphosphoric acid or sulfuric acid, at 180°C. The crude dye 4A-D is precipitated by addition to water and isolated